

What is claimed is:

1. A method for preserving a corneal explant ex vivo, comprising incubating said explant in a solution comprising an antisense oligonucleotide targeted to intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1).

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said antisense oligonucleotide is ISIS 2302.

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3. The method of claim 1, wherein said explant is human.

4. A method of inhibiting corneal allograft rejection, comprising contacting the allograft with a topical formulation comprising an antisense oligonucleotide targeted to intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1).

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5. The method of claim 4, wherein said antisense oligonucleotide is ISIS 2302.

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6. The method of claim 4, wherein said allograft is human.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein said topical formulation is a solution.

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8. A method for preserving a corneal explant ex vivo, comprising incubating said explant in a solution comprising an antisense oligonucleotide targeted to extracellular adhesion molecule-1 (ELAM-1) or vascular cell adhesion molecule-1 (VCAM-1).

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9. The method of claim 7, wherein said explant is human.

5        ~~10~~. A method for inhibiting corneal allograft rejection, comprising contacting the allograft with a topical formulation comprising an antisense oligonucleotide targeted to vascular cell adhesion molecule-1 (VCAM-1) or extracellular adhesion molecule-1 (ELAM-1).

10        11. The method of claim 9, wherein said allograft is human.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said topical formulation is a solution.